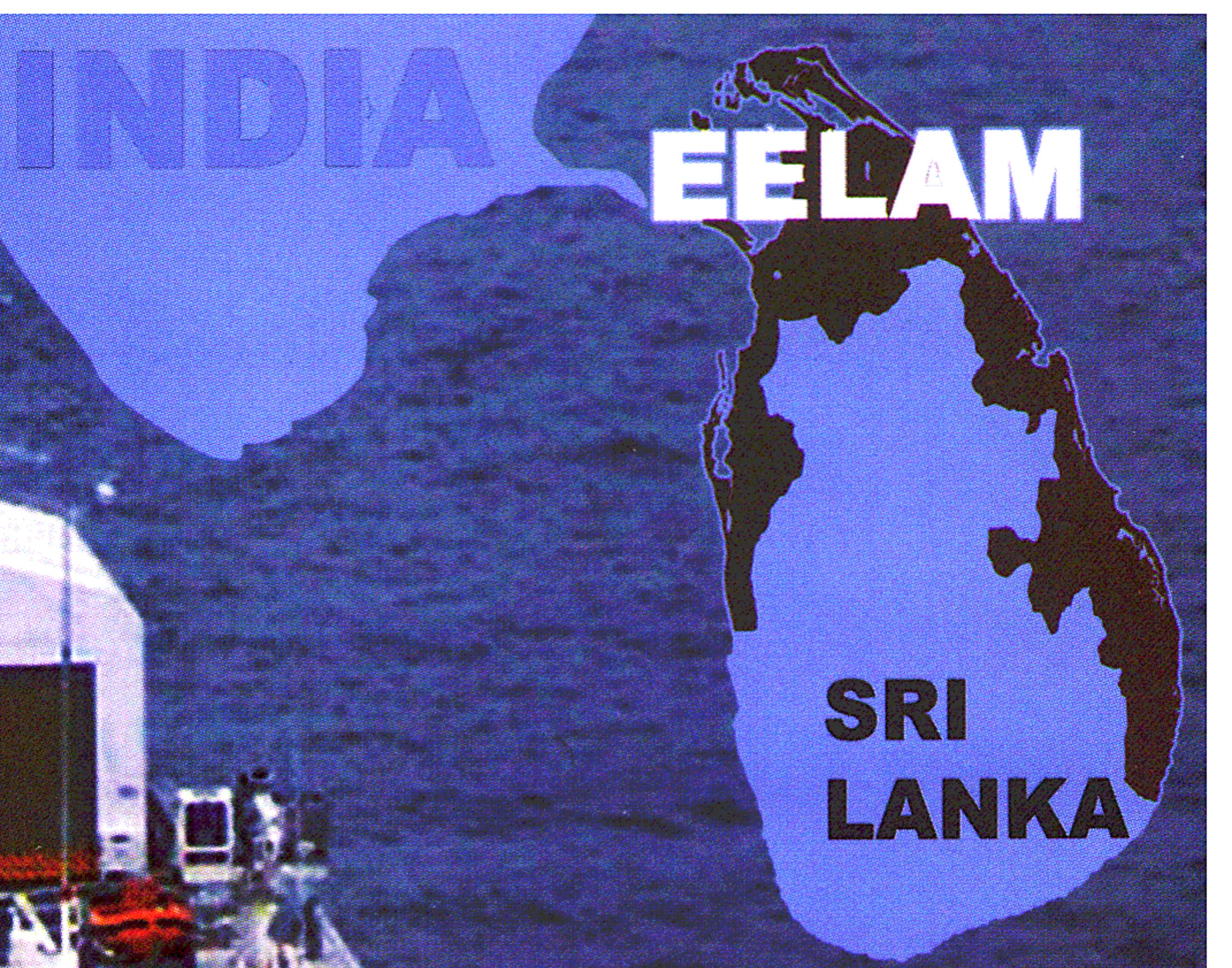




INDIA

EELAM



SRI
LANKA

வனங்கா மன்
VANANGA MAN

MERCY MISSION TO VANNI

LET'S JOIN HANDS IN ALLEVIATING
THE SUFFERING



OPERATION MERCY MISSION TO VANNI, SRI LANKA

The humanitarian crisis facing more than 250,000 Tamils in Vanni, Northern Sri Lanka is reaching unprecedented catastrophic proportions and yet the International Community (IC), especially the United Nations (UN), remain largely silent, more concerned with appeasing the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) than ensuring that an adequate quantity of humanitarian relief reaches those starving and dying in the War Zone.

These civilians, abandoned by the government that claims to represent them, are left without basic food, medicine, shelter, medical care and clothing and are being subjected to intense, indiscriminate bombing and shelling by the GoSL Armed Forces. Human Rights Watch (HRW) has reported that over 2000 civilians have been killed and more than 7000 injured in 2009.



16 month old girl injured by Sri lanka army shelling of refugee camp in "safe zone"

The GoSL has banned international and local media from accessing the Vanni since January 2007 and also in September 2008, ordered the UN and international non-governmental organisations (iNGOs) out, thus depriving the 250,000 civilians of adequate humanitarian assistance. These actions also removed the last independent, impartial third party witness to the war crimes that the GoSL is committing and ensured that only the GoSL's version of events are available to the world during their 'Programme of Genocide of the Tamils'.



Food Needs

UN agencies have estimated the number of people now in Vanni to be about 200,000, while the Government Agent (GA) and local NGOs that work there give a figure of 250,000. However, the GoSL has instructed the UN World Food Programme (WFP) to limit its food supply to Vanni to meet the needs of only 70,000. The last WFP shipment that reached the Vanni shores on 1st March carried 50 metric tons of food, which on the basis of a daily need of 0.5 kg per person would suffice to feed only 100,000 people for a day.

WFP sent in a mere 40,000 tons on 26 February and 153 metric tons on 19 January when the amount of food needed to feed the actual population of 250,000 is 875 metric tons per week.

Over the past one year the civilians in Vanni have not been getting adequate food rations due to the restrictions, embargoes and delays enforced by the GoSL. In particular, during the last 3 months less than 8% of the food / medical needs have been allowed in to Vanni by GoSL.